



2020-2021 Interact Ambassadors to Kenya and Central Mexico Facts Sheet



WHO: Two separate teams of our top high school age Interactors from our district will be selected to send to Kenya and to Central Mexico for two weeks during the summer of 2021. These Arizona Interact representatives will be accompanied by adult Advisors, and they will be hosted by Interact, Rotaract and Rotary Clubs in Kenya and Central Mexico. Our Rotary district has developed longstanding relationships with trusted partners in each of these countries. Applicants who desire to serve as one of these representatives must be an active member of an Interact club in Arizona, Needles, CA, or Laughlin, NV. The required application must be completed and submitted, together with two letters of recommendation, including one from an Advisor to their Interact club. There is a separate application to apply for a position on the Kenya team and for the Mexico team. A choice must be made, since a person cannot apply for both teams. Team Members selected to travel in 2020, were unable to do so, due to COVID 19. These Ambassadors are retaining their positions to travel in 2021, when we will be enlarging the teams by selecting and adding several additional members to each team.

WHEN: It is expected that our Interact Ambassadors teams will be traveling on their service missions during the months of June or July. Travel dates are uncertain at this point, and depend on when our mobility equipment can again be shipped to these countries, and teams can travel safely to each destination. Exact travel dates are also dependent on the airline schedules and the pricing of the fares.

WHAT: The Interact Ambassadors program is integrally involved with our Interact District 5495's signature Crutches 4 Africa project. In addition to our Interact clubs collecting used mobility devices to ship to these and other countries, funds are raised each year to help underwrite the cost of shipping the mobility equipment and to cover the cost of the airfare for the student members of the Ambassadors teams, and the teams' travel insurance. The adult Advisors who apply and are selected to accompany the Interactors on these teams pay their own way.

WHY: Our Interact district provides leadership training and experiences at the club, district and international levels. Interactors and Advisors who are selected to serve as members of an Ambassadors team embark on a six-month online training program, plus a retreat, to prepare them for their Rotary service in a different country and culture. Part of their international service experience will include their assisting our partners in those countries with their ongoing distribution of mobility devices to those who have been crippled by polio or accidents. However, the teams will also observe and participate in a number of other service projects as well, while they are in those countries. Home hosting by our Rotarian partners affords opportunities to more fully experience the culture than tourists to those countries would ever have. However, our teams will also get to see the noteworthy sights and natural wonders those countries have to offer during the time they are there. In all circumstances, the safety, security and welfare of our teams have been uppermost considerations in our planning and arrangements. This will be our fourth team we have successfully sent to Kenya, and our first team to Central Mexico. With these trips regarded and insured as Short-Term Rotary Youth Exchanges, the same rules apply to our Interact Ambassadors as to Rotary Youth Exchange ambassadors, including no drinking, driving or drugs.

HOW MUCH: While the airfare for the students, along with the travel insurance for the team, are covered from the funds raised for the project, there are still costs involved for the selected Interact representatives and their families. They bear the financial responsibility for obtaining the necessary passport & visa, required inoculations, luggage charges, and the desired amount of spending money. There are also in-country team travel costs, including transportation, meals, some lodging, and entrance fees for attractions that will be visited. A \$750* contribution toward these in-country team expenses is requested, to be paid in 3 increments. The first non-refundable \$250 payment is due at the time the Ambassadors are selected, with the remaining second and third payments of \$250 to be paid by March 1st and May 1st. (* Scholarships/Fundraising opportunities may be available, if needed.)

APPLICATIONS for the Ambassador and Advisor positions must be submitted by December 15, 2020. The screening of the applications, and the online interviews of the applicants, will take place during January, with the selections to be announced by January 31, 2021. Those selected need to register for and attend the Interact District Conference, on February 20, when the members of the 2021 Ambassadors teams will be presented. Applications are available on our Interact District website, www.rotaryazinteract.org. Questions concerning the Interact Ambassadors program can be directed to Dr. Art Harrington, Rotary District Interact Chair, arhts@msn.com, (928) 245-0411.